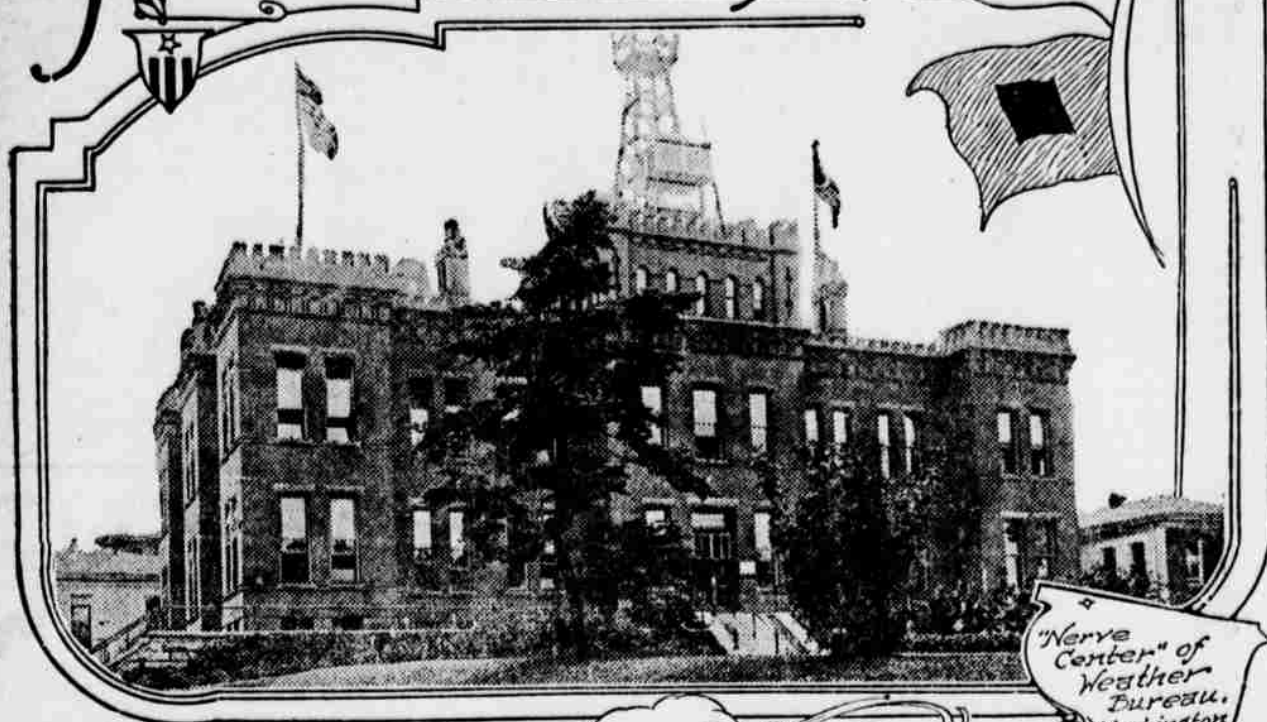


HURRICANE: "Champion of Destruction"



(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

POSSESSING a longer arm of destruction than the mightiest of volcanoes, and leaving in its wake a no-man's land, rivaling war's scars across the face of Europe, the hurricane is chief among natural forces contending for the title, "champion of destruction."

To fight the hurricane offensively is folly. For ages mankind has been able to wage only a defensive war against its terrifying "drives" and these efforts have been, until modern times, pitifully feeble. Man's only defense is to be forewarned. That it has been possible in the present generation to reduce death toll of hurricanes to a minimum, is due to the marvelous service maintained by the United States weather bureau.

The headquarters of the weather bureau, located quite to one side of main-traveled thoroughfares in the national capital, are the nerve center of this unique organization which extends across the continent and also far out to sea, since many vessels cooperate with the bureau by making daily reports to it.

Great Storm Sighted.

Early in September a hurricane, destined to devastate a wide area bordering the Gulf of Mexico, reared its head like a great monster a thousand miles to the southeast of the United States, among the islands of the Caribbean. As to what gave it birth not even the scientist knows. The forces that propagate all of these storms are shrouded in mystery. This particular hurricane was born in remote tropical waters, probably about September 5. A few hundred miles north of this center of disturbance the sea was relatively calm and passengers on steamers passing this way had no intimation of the terrific force that was generating off to the south. Likewise, the southland of the United States lay placid, in part bathed in sunshine and in part shaded by far-stretching blankets of clouds, many of them so fleecy that to the casual observer they carried no suggestion of the coming storm. But the hurricane in the tropics gathered strength quickly and flung itself in fury over the slender chain of islands constituting the Florida keys.

In the face of every such rising peril the meteorologist upon whom rests the responsibility for making daily forecasts, stands like one facing a thief in the dark. Beyond the mainland coast and a few scattered stations in the West Indies, he has no means of learning of the changing atmospheric conditions in those seas to the south and east, save chance reports from ships. Early reports of this hurricane were meager indeed. The first intimation of the coming of disaster was received September 8. The daily forecast for that date stated that a tropical storm had appeared to the southeast of Key West. But as to its extent, or its course, the chief forecaster at that time could only conjecture.

Despite his long experience in his profession, it was inevitable that the forecaster should be anxious—every meteorologist who is forecasting at such a time is anxious. He had been on duty in seasons past when not a single hurricane appeared. But in other years between July and October more than one such storm had left a trail of devastation across many states. The forecaster knew that millions of dollars worth of cargoes, about to sail from the Atlantic and Gulf ports, might be lost if he failed



to make a proper forecast and issue adequate warnings. The fate of whole cities rested on his decision. As he turned from his study of the telegraphic reports received from the eastern and southeastern section of the country, he joked a little—but in the manner of one whose joviality was a trifle forced, perhaps—about his repeated hard luck at being on duty "every time one of these storms hove in sight." There was an unmistakable tenseness in his manner as he studied the map, pointing to the low barometer area that was moving steadily toward the southern states.

Weather Forecast Correct.

The next chapter in the hurricane's brief history is told in the weather report of September 9: "The tropical storm was central Tuesday night and a little south of Key West where the barometer read 29.08 inches with a wind velocity of 60 miles an hour from the northeast. The storm is apparently moving northward, and will pass into the Gulf of Mexico during Tuesday night."

How speedily and decisively the forecaster had acted in the face of the oncoming peril is indicated by the next sentence: "Warnings to shipping and other interests have been regularly sent since Monday morning when storm warnings were first displayed on the south Florida coast."

The following 48 hours were laden with grave responsibility for the staff of the weather bureau. It was theirs to decide at the earliest possible moment consistent with accuracy in what direction the storm now moving with increasing power and rapidly would travel as it came nearer the mainland. On Wednesday, September 10, the report read, "The tropical storm passed Key West, Fla., about midnight Tuesday night with the barometer reading 28.81 inches, and estimated wind velocity of 110 miles an hour from the east." Here was evidence that one of the most violent storms of recent years was about to strike at some point on the Gulf coast.

This report revealed the meagerness of available information at this date regarding the progress of the hurricane: "Tonight the storm is probably central in the Gulf of Mexico, not far from latitude 26, longitude 85, still moving northwest, and northeast storm warnings are ordered on the Gulf coast from Carrabelle, Fla., to New Orleans, where the winds will probably be strong on Thursday night. Advice has also been issued to this section to prepare for possible very dangerous winds by Friday."

Defensive War Starts.

And so man's defensive war against the mighty force of nature was on. With all its scientific data regarding the course of previous storms, instant-

ly accessible and with reports from all available points of observation tabulated and recorded on the weather map, the weather bureau foretold many hours in advance the peril that threatened the Gulf coast. Thus the people were forewarned.

It will be recalled that storm warnings were displayed regularly on the south Florida coast since Monday morning. How accurate the weather bureau's forecasts had been is shown by the press dispatches dated Wednesday night, September 10: "Lower Florida was paralyzed today as a result of the violent hurricane that passed over that section last night. Not a house in this city (Key West) escaped damage; 320 frame buildings practically were razed, two church edifices wrecked, and five retail stores overturned. The damage is estimated at more than \$2,000,000. Shipping off the coast met with disaster. Several small vessels were sunk and others were driven to the reefs."

By this time the weather bureau, in its fight to keep destruction and death at the minimum, was able to act with more definiteness, even though there was no adequate means of ascertaining atmospheric conditions in the center area of the Gulf of Mexico. The report of September 11, flashed over the wires from Washington, read: "The tropical storm is apparently central tonight in the Gulf of Mexico with latitude 27 degrees and longitude 88 degrees. Absence of reports forbids the definite location of the storm center, and it is therefore impossible at this time to state the portion of the mainland that it will first reach, although it is fairly probable that it will be west of the Mississippi river. Storm warnings are displayed from the Louisiana coast eastward to central Florida and on the northwest coast of Texas."

While the hurricane was moving on its northward course additional news, brief but vivid, filtered in from points in its wake. September 11 the Associated Press representative wired: "Nine members of the Ward line steamer Corydon crew of 36 men were brought to this port this afternoon by the schooner Island Home. They had been adrift on an upturned lifeboat, without food and water for three days. One of the crew, according to their story, had become crazed, from suffering and privation Wednesday night, and sprang overboard."

In these hours the thoughts of the chief forecaster instinctively turned to Galveston, which in the past had suffered terribly from similar storms. Dispatches from that city indicated that the tide was rising rapidly. Water was flooding the low places on the island and people were fleeing the city. A 30-mile northeast storm was blowing. But for the weather bureau's timely warnings which had reached Galveston before the gale struck the city, millions of tons of cargo and scores of ships would have put to sea and would have been lost.

In the next 24 hours the storm burst upon the Texas coast in full fury. While the papers the next few days were filled with accounts of the damage and death caused by the hurricane the fact of greatest significance, and which the public has come to take almost as a matter of course, only partially realizing the skill and responsibility involved, was that the weather bureau had been able to anticipate this storm long enough in advance to prevent a loss that probably would have totaled thousands of lives and millions of dollars in shipping.

In 1828, Sir John Nicholl, giving judgment in an English divorce case, remarked that "conduct highly blameable and distressing to the feelings of a husband had been proved; but although 30 witnesses had been examined, no indecent familiarities beyond kissing had been proved. The shaking of hands when they met was now a practice so frequent between persons of different sexes, however, opinions might differ as to its delicacy, that no unfavorable inference could be deduced therefrom."

WAR WORK NETS CAPITALISTS LITTLE

AMERICAN FINANCIERS FIND WAR ACTIVITIES ARE NOT REMUNERATIVE.

COMMITTEE WILL INVESTIGATE

Some Men Gave Their Services For a Dollar a Year—F. S. Washburn Criticizes the Government's Action.

New York.—A story of how American capitalists spent vast sums without expectation of return or profit to aid the government in its efforts to supply explosives for the war, was told here to members of the House committee on expenditures in the War Department. Incidentally, it developed that the same men had put at the service of their country valuable secrets learned from the Germans for the extraction of nitrogen from the air.

The committee met to open an investigation into the expenditure of \$84,000,000 for two nitrate plants at Muscle Shoals, Ala.

Frank S. Washburn, president of the American Cyanamid Company, which built one of the plants at Muscle Shoals, informed the committee that the company had made no profit on over \$89,000,000 worth of war work it had done for the government. The plant cost the government \$62,000,000, had produced 1,500 tons of ammonium nitrate, when the armistice was signed, and then ceased operation.

"It was inconceivable to me," Washburn said, "that during the war some men of affairs should be enabled by the government to make large profits and others should give their services for \$1 a year or risk their lives at the front. The American Cyanamid Company did not want any profit out of its war work. As a matter of fact, it had none. Government officials insisted that we be paid a few of \$1,500,000. When we receive this fee we must pay 85 per cent of it as taxation. It has not been feasible for the government to repay us our entire expenditure. We contributed without expense the services of a staff of experts to the government. We had to reimburse families of men injured in the work."

THE HIP POCKET PASSING

CLOTHES DESIGNERS ISSUE AN EDICT.

Prohibition and Unlawfulness of Gun Toting Bring Change in Men's Garments.

New York.—Prohibition will sweep hip pockets in men's trousers into innocuous desuetude, according to a prediction by experts of the International Association of Clothing Designers, who issued an edict:

"Make them smaller and shallower this season."

Commenting on the attitude of the designers, George W. Hermann, a member of the organization, said:

"It's illegal to tote a gun; it's unhandy to carry your handkerchief there, and you can't buy anything but wood alcohol to put in your flasks. So the pocket just naturally will shrink away."

TO SPEND \$1,133,000,000 TO EVANGELIZE WORLD

Interchurch Movement Budget For Work in the Next Five Years Is Approved.

Atlantic City, N. J.—The budget of the interchurch world movement, to be used in co-ordinating the energies of the Protestant denominations for the evangelizing the world, was approved at the conference of 1,400 church members here.

The budget calls for the expenditure of \$1,133,000,000 in the next five years. It provides for evangelistic work in America and the foreign field, proper financing of hospitals and homes, liberal awards to struggling colleges, for the fighting of social and industrial unrest, and better wages to both ministers and missionaries.

It is specified that no part of the budget shall be changed by a Board of Review, to be appointed with equal representation of all denominations, without the consent of the denominational board directly affected.

Labor Leader Ousted as I. W. W.
Denver, Colo.—The Colorado State Federation of Labor has expelled S. D. C. Morrell, vice president and member of the executive board, for alleged activity in the ranks of the I. W. W., according to announcement.

Mexican Volcano Kills 4,000.
Mexico City.—The combined death toll from last Saturday's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, which rent a part of the state of Vera Cruz, was estimated conservatively at 4,000. Twelve towns and villages were reported destroyed.

R. R. Operated at Loss by U. S.
Washington.—Railroads during November, 1919, were operated at a loss of \$60,000,000 to the government, according to statistics given out by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

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For Infants and Children.

Mothers Know That Genuine Castoria

Always Bears the Signature of

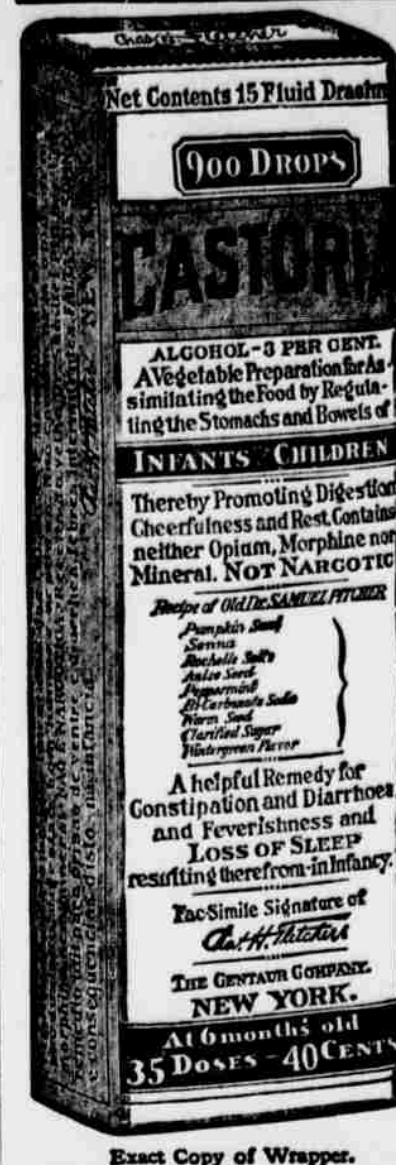
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In Use

For Over

Thirty Years

CASTORIA



Watch the Little Pimples; They are Nature's Warning

Unsightly and Disfiguring Signals of Bad Blood.

Pimples on the face and other parts of the body are warnings from Nature that your blood is sluggish and impoverished. Sometimes they foretell eczema, boils, blisters, and other skin disorders that burn like flames of fire. They mean that your blood needs S. S. S. to cleanse it of these impure accumulations that can cause unlimited trouble. This remedy is one of the greatest vegetable compounds known, and contains no minerals or chemicals to injure the most delicate skin.

Go to your drug store, and get a bottle of S. S. S. today, get rid of those unsightly, disfiguring pimples, and other skin irritations. It will cleanse your blood thoroughly. For special medical advice free, address Medical Director, 41 Swift Laboratory, Atlanta, Ga.

SEASONS HAVE NOT CHANGED WHEN THE WORD CANNIBAL

Records Show That Weather and Climate Are the Same Today as They Were Long Ago.

"Weather and climate have not changed from the time of the Pilgrims down to the present day," are the closing words of an article by Prof. Robert de C. Ward of Harvard University, on "The Snowfall of the United States," in the Scientific Monthly.

That this is so is proved by a comparison of present-day conditions with those so accurately recorded by the early settlers of New England. "There are accounts of great cold; of deep snows; of violent winter storms. There are also many descriptions of very mild and open winters. Thus, we read of December and January resembling May and June; of flowers growing in the woods in midwinter; of 'so little snowfall as scarcely to give opportunity for enjoying the music of the sleigh bells'; of 'green Christmases'; of 'winter turned into summer'; of the 'ground bare for the most part'; of 'little ice'; of crocuses up of wild violets in bloom, and of lilacs 'throwing out their leaves' in January."

The Difficulty.
"What do you think of street paving in the abstract?"
"How can you take abstract views of a concrete subject?"

Not Recognized.
"What's to become of the social glass now?" "It will have to be cut glass soon."

A Warm Time Coming.
Imp—"That new arrival wants something for his nerves." Satan—"Tell him to have a smoke on me."

Coffee troubles Vanish
when the table drink is changed from coffee to

Postum Cereal

Its rich flavor makes it fully acceptable to those who like coffee but find coffee doesn't like them.

This healthful table beverage has not increased in price

At Grocers and General Stores

Two Sizes Usually sold at 15¢ and 25¢

Made by Postum Cereal Co. Battle Creek, Mich.

Was This Dog a Ghost?

At Umbayo, South Africa, John Jeter, an English settler, owned a very fine hound that was run over and killed by a train. For months after the Jeter family was much annoyed by the wild whistling of the passing trains. On complaining of this, they were told by the engineers that they should keep their dog at home, that the whistling was merely a warning to the dog, which was always on the

tracks. The engineers described the dog with such accuracy that the family was greatly mystified, especially when the engineers added that the dog would always refuse to leave the track until the engine was almost upon him.

Not Allowed to Shake Hands.

Although today we all shake hands on meeting as a matter of course, there was a time when purists held that friends of opposite sexes should not salute one another by shaking hands.